

most of whom are women—can use a diversity of simple practices to stave off hunger, earn an income and, ultimately, improve their lives, and the lives of those around them. And for Janet, the benefits have been life-changing. Now, she said her children's overall nutrition is better. Meanwhile, the extra income Janet earns from selling products in local markets means she can pay her children's school fees.

If we ignore the reality and the influence of empowering women, the results will undoubtedly be negative. When development programs fail to consider gender differences, women are the ones that are left behind. The World Bank states that, at the macroeconomic level, there is evidence that removing gender disparities spurs growth. According to one estimate, growth rates in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East would have been 30–45 percent higher had these regions closed the gender gaps as East Asia did during the school years of 1960 and 1992. In Kenya, if women farmers were given the same level of agricultural inputs and education as men, they could increase their yields by more than 20 percent.

Therefore, if we open women's access to the means of agricultural production such as: farming land, fertilizers, farm labor, credit and technical skills—the end results are crucial to guaranteeing food security and enhancing the nutritional status of children. When we invest in women and they have the opportunity to augment their own incomes, their families and communities thrive.

As we in Congress and in the administration move forward with the vital process of revamping and modernizing our foreign assistance, we have an opportunity to make women's empowerment a central focus of U.S. foreign policy. We must all remember the lesson that an investment in the empowerment of women is an investment in the future. As chairman of the International Development and Foreign Assistance Subcommittee at Foreign Relations, I vow to make that the case. Investing in women is the best way to secure stronger communities and economies around the world.

Today, let us reaffirm the commitment to end gender-based discrimination in all forms, to end violence against women and girls worldwide, as we encourage the people of the United States to observe March 8 as International Women's Day.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TRACY VALENTINE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding Arkansas educator, Tracy Valentine.

A teacher at Bragg Elementary School in West Memphis, Tracy is a recipient of the 2010 Milken Educator Award.

This prestigious award is the Nation's preeminent teacher recognition

program that has honored 2,500 teachers, principals and specialists with \$25,000 awards. The criteria for selection of this award is exceptional educational talent as evidenced by outstanding instructional practices in the classroom, school and professional and policy leadership, and an engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community. Tracy surpassed these criteria. Her outstanding contributions and commitment to education have been noticed by her students, their parents as well as her colleagues.

Tracy's passion for educating not only helps students, but also inspires those who work with her to do their best to encourage further development in the classroom. This truly is a major accomplishment in her career and something of which to be very proud.

I would like to offer my appreciation for Tracy Valentine's determination and devotion to provide a quality educational experience for students as we continue to shape the eager, young minds of West Memphis and work to keep America globally competitive.●

TRIBUTE TO NANCY WILSON COOK

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I recognize the Honorable Nancy Wilson Cook of Kenton, DE. A legislator, stateswoman, sister, mother, grandmother and friend, I have known Nancy for many years and on many levels. I am very proud to be honoring her today.

Born in Philadelphia, Nancy grew up in New Castle County and attended public school in the Colonial School District, graduating from William Penn High School. Nancy also attended the University of Delaware before marrying her beloved husband, the Honorable Allen J. Cook, and starting their family.

Always curious about the political process, Nancy got her first taste of the political world when she worked as an attaché to the late State Senator Calvin McCullough. For the next 20 years Nancy worked in Legislative Hall, in the Capital City of Dover, taking in the democratic process. Following the passing of her husband, Nancy was elected to the 15th District Senate seat held by Allen, during a special election.

A role model of integrity and service, Nancy served not only as a State senator, but as a leader within the Democratic caucus. Nancy served as chairwoman and vice-chairwoman of the prestigious Joint Finance Committee, and is the longest-serving Joint Finance Committee cochair in Delaware history. As the first Democratic woman to be elected to the Delaware State Senate, Nancy held other leadership roles during her tenure including serving as senate majority whip, chairwoman of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee, and chairwoman of the Joint Capital Bond Bill Committee. She also served as a mem-

ber of the Senate Committees on Agriculture; Adult & Juvenile Corrections; Children, Youth & Families; Insurance & Elections; and, Revenue & Taxation.

An icon in the Delaware General Assembly, Nancy's legislative accomplishments are vast. During my terms as both Delaware's treasurer and Governor, Nancy and I worked closely together on many financial issues facing the State of Delaware. Known for her immense knowledge of and experience with Delaware financial matters, I valued her input on many major decisions.

Throughout my 8 years as Delaware's Governor, Nancy's leadership helped my administration pursue a common-sense agenda that led to eight balanced budgets, tax cuts in 7 of those 8 years, and major increases in employment allowing Delaware to achieve a AAA bond rating for the first time in its history. Nancy has been a strong ally for me on many occasions including creating Delaware's 21st Century Fund, the unprecedented State long-term infrastructure investment fund. In 1996, she was a very strong supporter of the purchase of the Port of Wilmington, which began the port's rejuvenation into one of the world's top ports.

Another of her many noteworthy accomplishments was in the late 1970s and early 1980s with the enacting of the constitutional amendments and related legislation to establish Delaware's balanced budget amendment—creating the State's "Rainy Day Fund" and a formula for reducing bond indebtedness. Nancy was also very active with the Legislative Council leading the way for the conversion and renovation of both Legislative Hall and the Tatnall Building allowing for better public access to the General Assembly and the Governor. She has also been a strong supporter of the Wilmington Riverfront, serving on the board of directors of the Riverfront Development Corporation, as well as information technology, historical and cultural affairs and the Delaware Heritage Commission's Delaware Oral History Project.

Nancy leaves a legacy of commitment to public service for her family and the rest of us to follow. I join her friends and family, son Tommy, his wife Beth and their daughter Morgan; stepson Allen, his wife Judy and their children Allen III, Dale, and Shawn and their wives and children in congratulating Nancy for her dedication and service.

On behalf of all Delawareans, I applaud Nancy W. Cook for her outstanding commitment to the State of Delaware and extend to her my very best wishes for every success in the future.●

2010 ALFRED P. SLOAN AWARD WINNERS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I congratulate the 2010 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility. This award recognizes employers that have